

Message Text

PAGE 01 USUN N 02311 210024 Z

62

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20 SR-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8510

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID SREF UNRWA XF

SUBJ: UNRWA WB MEETING OF JUNE 19

REF: A. USUN 2071

B. BEIRUT 6832

1. AT MEETING JUNE 19, WORKING GROUP (WG) HEARD REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER GENERAL RENNIE AND DISCUSSED FOLLOW- UP APPEALS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA. RENNIE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS :

- A. UNRWA BUDGET HAS BEEN HARD HIT BY CONTINUING INFLATION AND FLUCTUATION OF CURRENCIES. 1973 DEFICIT WILL BE \$4.2 MILLION AND PROSPECTS FOR 1974 ARE EVEN WORSE SINCE COSTS OF ONGOING PROGRAMS ARE BOUND TO RISE EACH YEAR.
- B. IF DEFICIT PERSISTS, HE WILL HAVE TO REDUCE SERVICES, PROBABLY IN EDUCATION PROGRAM. HE FEELS THERE LITTLE PRACTICAL ROOM FOR CUTS IN RATIONS PROGRAM.
- C. IF COST OF UNRWA'S INT'L STAFF WERE TRANSFERRED TO REGULAR UN BUDGET, DEFICIT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED.
- D. HE ENCOURAGED WG TO DO ALL IT CAN TO HELP AGENCY'S FINANCES.

2. LEBANESE REP (MAHMASSANI), SPEAKING FOR ARAB HOST GOVTS, SAID HE MUST OPPOSE STRONGLY ANY REDUCTION IN UNRWA PROGRAM. HE ASKED FOR IDEAS AS TO WHAT WG CAN DO TO AVERT

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02311 210024 Z

CUTS.

3. WG DISCUSSED COUNTRIES TO BE APPROACHED IN FOLLOW- UP APPEAL FOR ADDED CONTRIBUTIONS. UK REP (WESTON) SUGGESTED

ALL CURRENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL BE INCLUDED IN LIST. FRENCH REP (LECLERCQ) SUGGESTED FOLLOW- UP ACTION BE SEVERELY LIMITED, CONCENTRATING ON THREE REGIONS-- ARAB STATES, EE STATES AND WE STATES SUCH AS NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND AUSTRIA. US REP NOTED LISTING WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBJ TO DEPT' S APPROVAL AND DISCRETION OF RESPECTIVE MISSIONS IN FIELD. WG TENTATIVELY SEPARATED PROPOSED LIST IN TWO PARTS. PART A, CONSISTING OF WG DEFINITELY BELIEVES SHOULD BE APPROACHED INCLUDES ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA , AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHINA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRAN, ITALY, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, USSR, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA, FRG, GDR AND SWITZERLAND. PART B, CONSISTING OF STATES WG BELIEVES ITS REPS IN THOSE REPECTIVE CAPITALS SHOULD CONSIDER APPROACHING INCLUDES INDONESIA, IVORY COAST, KENYA, MALAYSIA, PANAMA, PERU, SAINGAPORE AND HOLY SEA.

4. REQUEST DEPT' S VIEWS ON FEASIBILITY OF JOINING APPEAL, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER WG MEMBER STATES, IN THOSE COUNTRIES (PARA THREE ABOVE).

5. WG SECRETARY (DEBRITO) REPORTED THAT CHAIRMAN' S LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF UN APPEALING FOR FUNDS WAS STILL BEING PROCESSED. UK REP SUGGESTED RENNIE EDIT LETTER TO INCLUDE GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF AGENCY' S FINANCIAL PLIGHT. RENNIE AND WESTON PROMISED TO SUBMIT WORDING AND SECRETARY WAS INSTRUCTED TO HOLD UP PROCESSING MEANTIME. (DRAFT LETTER DATAFAXED IO/ UNP/ GREENE.)

6. CHAIRMAN (OLCAY) SAID HE ASSUMED WG MEMBERS WOULD ASK THEIR GOVTS TO MAKE FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA. HE FELT THAT IN SOME WG CAPITALS (INCLUDING ANAKRA) A JOINT APPROACH BY AMBASSADORS OF WG MEMBER COUNTRIES MIGHT BE USEFUL.

7. RENNIE ASKED WG NOT TO MAKE APPEALS TO ARAB GOVTS WHILE HE EXPLORES POSSIBILITIES THERE. HE IS SEEKING INTER-MEDIARIES WHO MIGHT MAKE APPEALS ON BEHALF UNRWA AND, IF NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02311 210024 Z

SUCCESSFUL, MAY LATER ASK WG TO UNDERTAKE DIRECT APPROACHES. RENNIE ALSO NOTED THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER UN AGENCIES AND HE IS NOT HOPEFUL OF SUPPORT FROM THAT QUARTER. HE WELCOMED APPROACH BY WG TO EAST EUROPEAN STATES, COMMENTING HE HOPES THERE MAY BE CHANGE OF HEART THERE.

8. RENNIE CALLED ON AMB. SCALI JUNE 20 TO REPORT ON UNRWA FISCAL SITUATION, ON ABOVE LINES. SCALI NOTED SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AND ASSURED RENNIE HE WOULD PASS HIS OBSERVATIONS ALONG, BUT STRESSED THAT IT DOUBTFUL US COULD IN PRESENT STRINGENT CIRCUMSTANCES INCREASE ITS ALREADY GENEROUS SUPPORT OF UNRWA. RENNIE ALSO MET WITH UNSYG

AND REPS OF SEVERAL OTHER WG MEMBERS DURING HIS NEW YORK
STAY. HE DEPARTS JUNE 20 FOR BEIRUT VIA STOPOVER LONDON.
SCALI

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